

The HUB

The Official Newsletter of American Fork City



CREATING A BETTER WAY OF LIFE FOR EVERYONE

American Fork State of the City

By Mayor Brad Frost

In 1850 Stephen Chipman and Arza Adams came from the Salt Lake Valley on a trading trip to Fort Provo. On the trip back they camped near what would become the American Fork River, and after seeing the cottonwood trees along the creek and lush meadows on the lowlands toward Utah Lake, they were convinced that this would be an excellent place to settle. So they went back to governor Brigham Young who told them to, “go take up [the] land you want.” In the fall of 1850 American Fork began settlement, and by 1853 there were approximately 80 families living in the area and the town was incorporated under the name “Lake City.”

Though our city today may look different then it did in 1853, the thing that has remained constant is the determination of our residents to come together for

the good of our community, just as our founders did. The actions taken by this City in the last year alone, have all been an echo of our founding father’s commitment to improve this place for the benefit of those who lived here.

Read the full address at:
americanfork.gov

Public Safety

One of the most crucial ways we have improved American Fork recently has been through our public safety. Whether it’s to give a ticket, a hug, an IV, or a hand, they are there for us 24/7. Last year our police department responded to about 30,000 calls for service, or roughly 80 calls per day, every day of the year.

Continued on page 2

In This Issue

State of the City	1, 2, 4
AF History	3
AF Notify	3
Valentines Dance	3
Spring Soccer	3
Storm Drain Fee Increase.....	3
Job Fair	4

Office Numbers

Administration	801-763-3000
Public Works.....	801-763-3060
Library	801-763-3070
Fitness Center.....	801-763-3080
Senior Center.....	801-763-3090

Non-Emergency

Police	801-763-3020
Fire & Rescue.....	801-763-3045

On-Call / After-Hour

Water/Pressurized	801-404-1253
Sewer/Storm Drain	801-404-7167
Streets	801-404-1255
Garbage	801-924-8500
Street Lights	801-814-4311



AMERICAN FORK
www.americanfork.gov



American Fork State of the City

Continued from page 1

Our fire department responded to 4,772 calls for service, making our fire station the busiest in Utah County for yet another year.

In 2019 our community supported a relief effort for our fire department by approving a bond to build a much needed second station and buy land for a future third station. As of the start of 2022, American Fork City has secured property for both additional fire stations and we have almost finished design work for our second fire station, called Fire Station 52. Station 52 will be located just off N. Utah County Blvd on Harvey at about 9800 N right by the newly constructed Canal Blvd. The Canal Blvd, by the way, will allow our second station to provide quick responses to all of northern American Fork, including the homes on the west side.

Development

It's no surprise we have seen growth in the recent years. In 2021 American Fork issued 1,180 permits. I share that number with you as a point of pride and not despair. That is because growth can be a good thing. Growth allows more businesses into our City. Growth gives our children places to live. Growth means we are honoring and respecting property rights. We can have growth and still preserve the identity of our beautiful city if we welcome newcomers with open arms and share with them our rich history and our bright future.

I, together with the city council and staff, are working hard to ensure the best and smartest growth possible. We are working to make sure we always have enough water for our residents, improved and maintained roads, and plenty of parks and open space. We are looking into managing traffic by studying multiple modes of transportation like busses, bike trails, and walking paths. We are currently working with regional partners on a \$43 million dollar project to widen State Street from American Fork into Pleasant Grove. We

are making sure we have a variety of housing types in our community to accommodate people in every stage of life.

We have great businesses who support our residents in so many ways. Last year we added over 200 new businesses to our community. And we also kept some great ones, like Built Bar, Domo, and Doug Smith Autoplex, who all needed to expand operations and decided to do it while staying in American Fork. We are grateful to our businesses who donate time, talent, and resources to support community events like Steel Days. I am also grateful to our chamber of commerce who support our businesses.

Fiscal Responsibility

Of course, we need funds to properly serve our growing residents, not to mention preparing for any economic uncertainties that may come. We have managed to do more with less, in part, through immense efforts to secure money elsewhere. Last year our city secured nearly \$10 million in grants, for things like water infrastructure, police resources, recreational space, and library services. That amounts to about 40% of our general fund operating budget and \$10 million in additional service for our residents that did not come out of their pocket.

Water Management

2021 presented some new challenges to our area with the severe drought. In response our residents and businesses delayed watering until May 1st and limited water throughout the year. I'm happy to report that because of your efforts American Fork saved almost a billion gallons of water, a 26% reduction from the previous year!

Moving forward American Fork will take several water conservations steps such as installing pressurized irrigation metering, landscaping conservation, and drafting policy that addresses drought. The city has also approved smart sprinklers at all our parks to help reduce water waste and labor costs. Installation of these clocks began last fall and will continue in earnest this spring.

PARC TAX

I am particularly grateful to our residents for deciding to renew the PARC tax in our community, thus clearly stating their desire for great parks, recreation, arts, and culture in American Fork for another 10 years. To date we have re-invested over six and a half million dollars into our city and by the end of the next decade we estimate a reinvestment of over \$20 million back into our community.

Speaking of park space, I am proud to announce the acquisition of 30 acres of space south of the I-15. These 30 acres will add much needed parks space and a portion will also serve as the location of our third fire station. This space was acquired thanks to park impact fees which are set aside by development for just such a purpose.

Communication

Hopefully our residents have noticed more content being pushed out by the city; and hopefully they have noticed a more responsive city seeking to understand and resolve our residents' concerns. Increasing communication with our residents has been a priority during my tenure as mayor and I promise it will continue to get even better. Last year American Fork rolled out an event alert system called AF Notify where residents can choose to receive text and email notifications on a variety of topics. This has been a great service and by the end of last year we had 2,500 residents signed up to use it! If you haven't yet, please sign up for this helpful and important service.

General Improvements

Last year was a busy time for everyone, but no more so than our front-line services. Our recreation programs saw huge swells in participation, pushing their service to the edge of capacity. Last year total attendees in our rec programs increased 26%, and our fitness center had over 270,000 visits last year.

Continued on page 4

AF HISTORY: THE APOLLO HALL



Early 1900's Old Folks Party at the Apollo Hall

For over a hundred years, the Apollo Hall has been a popular place for American Fork and the surrounding area. Built in 1903, the hall served as a recreation/dance hall, a community hall sponsoring political meetings, community meetings, church dances, and various parties like the Old Folks Parties.

The Apollo Hall was the first in the state to feature a spring dance floor, which made it the place to come dancing and where many romances were started! The floor was 60 x 90 feet and could accommodate 300 to 350 couples while dancing. The hall included benches that ran the length of the dance floor, and it was lit by electric lights. The hall also featured

a stage for bands or speakers, a ticket booth, coat check-in room, and restrooms. Heating was provided by 2 coal burning stoves on the north end of the building and was always decorated wonderfully to suit the occasion.

The hall, located at 50 North Church Street, was built with a rock foundation of 80 feet wide and 125 feet long under the supervision of James H. Pulley and Thomas E. Steele. Joseph Jackson and Associates were the promoters and owners after construction.

Photo and History Information from the American Fork Daughters of Utah Pioneers Museum.

Know what's happening, when it's happening!

AF Notify is American Fork City's communication platform to residents. Sign up for AF Notify to receive timely information about City news, the Library, fitness & recreation programs, roadwork projects, public meetings and Steel Days events. You can choose one or more category to subscribe to and we will send the best information your way. Choose how you want to be informed – text, email, or both.

Multiple numbers and addresses may be registered. Registering gives Utah County Dispatch notification access for police and fire emergencies. You may also subscribe to notices from other participating cities. American Fork City uses Utah County's Everbridge Emergency Notification System.

Visit americanfork.gov to sign up!

notifyme



AMERICAN FORK
FITNESS & RECREATION

Spring Soccer Registration

Spring soccer registration is open! The deadline to sign up is **February 17, 2022**.

Registration Fees:

PreK-2nd Grade - \$39
3rd-4th Grade - \$44
5th-12th Grade - \$54

Non-Residents (Alpine, Highland, Cedar Hills etc.) pay an additional \$20 fee.

1st-4th Grades wear the reusable Red/Silver jerseys. A new one can be purchased for \$8 upon registration if needed.

For more information and to register, go to americanfork.gov/soccer.

**Big Band
Valentines
Dance**
2-14-2022

At Northampton House
in American Fork, Ut.

PROFESSIONAL DANCE INSTRUCTION

NEW VIP DINNER OPTION

Tickets:
WasatchShowBand.com



Storm Drain Utility Rate Increase

Effective January 1, 2022 the City's storm drain utility rate has increased by \$2.50 per month for single-unit residential units. Rate adjustments will also occur for commercial and multi-family units as well. This cost increase is largely due to system and infrastructure improvements and increased operations and maintenance the City must undertake

over the next ten years to stay compliant with recently mandated state and federal water pollution control requirements for all municipal storm water systems. You can read more about these requirements, as well as learn about the City's storm water system, by reading the City's recently adopted Storm Water Management Program at americanfork.gov.

Recommended Final Rates	Existing	2022	2023	2024	2025
Single-Unit Residential					
Base Monthly Charge per Unit	\$6.00	\$8.50	\$8.50	\$10.50	\$10.50
Multi-Unit Residential					
Base Monthly Charge per Unit	\$6.00	\$6.69	\$6.69	\$8.27	\$8.27
Area Charge per 1,000 Impervious sq.ft.	\$0.00	\$0.53	\$0.53	\$0.66	\$0.66
Commercial/Institutional					
Base Monthly Charge (per 3,400 impervious sq.ft.)	\$6.00	\$6.69	\$6.69	\$8.27	\$8.27
Area Charge per 1,000 Impervious sq.ft.	\$0.00	\$0.53	\$0.53	\$0.66	\$0.66

American Fork State of the City

Continued from page 2

At our parks we planted 30 new trees last year, updated and improved our disc golf course, prepared 460 baseball and softball games at our fields, and handled 347 reservations at our pavilions and beloved amphitheater.

Our Library saw a huge increase in downloadable content, which jumped up 173% from 2020. Our library was also one in five libraries in the state to receive an exemplary service award for their quick adaptations to services during the pandemic. Finally, we are proud to announce that last year our library went fine free.

Our streets department has also been busy. Along with removing 1,176 lane miles of ice and snow last year, we invested nearly \$4.3 million on road improvements and treatment methods. These improvements and treatments included repaving over 1,700 tons of failed roadway and adding life preserving surface treatments to almost a million square feet of roadway. We were also able to eliminate 137 sidewalk failures last year. I know road construction can be frustrating, but every time you see a detour or construction sign, just tell yourself, "That just means we're improving."

Conclusion

I have only scratched the surface regarding our efforts last year to build and improve our beautiful city. I hope our current residents, as well as our forefathers, are pleased with what we have done. In 1853 Brigham Young gave our forefathers permission to "go take up [the] land you want." Since then, we have been working to make this a place where people want the land we have taken. We have done this with good service, but also with good people. It is my hope that we can be the city we want to be by first being the people we need to be.

UTAH VALLEY



J O B

FAIR **FREE** for Job Seekers

TUESDAY MARCH 22, 2022
2:00 – 5:00 PM

In Person @ Utah Valley Convention Center 220 W. Center St. • Provo, UT

Like our Facebook page at facebook.com/UtahValleyJobFair and mark that you're coming to the Job Fair under events for your chance to win prizes.

This is the place to find a NEW or BETTER JOB!

Bring many copies of your resumé, dress professionally and be prepared to talk to hiring representatives.

UtahValleyJobFair.com

